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Minor Irrigation Works.

Auction of fish in the tank of Poovanipattu big eri.

* 2345 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the tank fish in the tank of Poovanipattu big eri, Jayankondacholapuram, Trichinopoly district, was auctioned only for Rs. 2 to caste men though the fishes would fetch about Rs. 10 on account of not announcing properly about the auction among all classes of people near by?

A.—The Government have no information on the subject.

Survey and Settlement.

Reduction of work at re-surveys and re-settlements.

* 2346 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: With reference to the answer to question No. 116 given at the meeting, dated 19th August 1925, of the Legislative Council, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to furnish now the suggestions received so far for the reduction of work at re-surveys and re-settlements to minimize the cost thereof?

A.—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the paper placed on the Council Table on the 12th February 1926 (page 473 of the Legislative Council Proceedings, Volume XXVII, dated 12th February 1926).

Village Establishments.

Travelling allowances to amsam menons in Malabar.

* 2347 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that the amsam menons in Malabar (Village Accountants) are often directed to be present at the taluk offices on duty; and

(*b*) that they are not paid any travelling or halting allowance on such occasions?

A.—(*a*) Menons (karnams) are required to attend the taluk offices for jamabandi for closing their accounts and sometimes in connexion with inquiries relating to their villages. The Government have no reason to think that they are unnecessarily summoned to the taluk offices on duty.

(*b*) Under the rules now in force, village officers are not eligible for any travelling or halting allowance for their attendance at taluk offices.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Having regard to the fact that many of these karnams are poor people, may I know from my hon. Friend the Member for Revenue whether the Government have any intention of revising these rules and providing for some allowance to these poor people."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I am not aware of any such intention or proposal."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Seeing the hardship to which these people are subjected to, will the Government be pleased to see the justice and charity of granting some allowance to them?"

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid, it is a suggestion for action."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" I am asking the Government whether they have the justice and charity to deal with these poor public servants in an equitable manner ? " (Laughter)

II

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MADRAS IRRIGATION BILL.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the Irrigation Bill will not be taken up in this sitting ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" We shall come to that when the Irrigation Bill is taken up."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" My enquiry is whether we will come up to it at all."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is on the agenda and we must come up to it."

III

A BILL TO RE-ENACT THE MADRAS HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS ACT, 1923—*cont.*

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the House may perhaps remember that in April 1923 when the hon. the Chief Minister introduced the third and final reading of the Bill, he appealed to every section of this House to give whole-hearted support to the Bill. I was the first to stand up and raise my voice of protest and to strike a discordant note. This Bill has been on the Statute Book for over 20 months and I see no reason to change my strong conviction, which I may submit in all humility, has been growing with time. There are very many obnoxious sections in this Bill : The creation of a Board of Commissioners which I feel bound to characterize as a white elephant costly and expensive, and investing it with large and extensive powers, without any finality in certain cases and the provision made in regard to the divers on of funds in consonance with the idea of indroducing, what is known as the Cypres doctrine, seems, in my humble judgment, to make this Bill reactionary and highly unpopular. It was said in the course of this debate that the contributions were not being received as rapidly as the Board or the Government expected. I submit with a certain amount of experience, being a member of the South Arcot Devasthanam Committee, that there is a feeling of discontent in my district. The trustees refuse to submit the register contemplated by section 38 of the present Bill. The mathadhipathis have raised a voice of protest. The mere fact that a number of suits have been filed and are awaiting decision by the High Court shows that, more than anything else, the Bill does not find favour in the country. We also notice a tendency on the part of the Ministers to rush the Bill through, retaining the old obnoxious provisions. All I can say is, that in this Bill, at every stage, we see the steel-frame not of the Indian Civil Service, but of a Ministerial bureaucracy, by association or otherwise and our Ministers have become far worse bureaucrats than the white bureaucrats themselves. I see, therefore, absolutely no reason for the creation of this body known as Board of